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STATINTL

Mystery Man of the CIA

Our No. 1 Spy Drops Dead Playing Tennis

Desmond FitzGerald, 57, who headed the Central Intelligence Agency's spy operations, died yesterday of an apparent heart attack while playing tennis at his country home near The Plains, Va.

Mr. FitzGerald stepped up to his job as Deputy Director for Plans at the CIA a year ago when Richard Helms moved up to Director. In the post, Mr. FitzGerald was considered one of the most influential — and least publicized — Washington officials.

He had been with the CIA since 1951 and had served as station chief in the Philippines and in Japan. In 1961, during the shakeup that followed the disastrous Bay of Pigs operation, he became director of Latin American operations.

Mr. FitzGerald was born in New York City, the son of a stockbroker, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1935. He joined the New York law firm of Spence, Hopkins, Walser, Hotchkiss and Angell two years later and, in 1942, he enlisted as a private in the Army.

CHINA HAND

He was commissioned and served in the China-Burma-India theater, often behind enemy lines, then became a liaison offi-

cer for Chinese Infantry. Eventually, he became operations officer for security for the Chinese Combat Command in Nanking. When he left the Army in 1946, he was a major and had been awarded the Bronze Star with cluster and the combat infantryman's badge.

Mr. FitzGerald returned to the New York law firm as a partner, and five years later he resigned to join the CIA.

IN TOWN

Besides the country home near The Plains, Mr. FitzGerald had a home at 1671 24th St. NW, in

Georgetown. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; two daughters, Frances and Joan; a son, Desmond Jr.; and a stepdaughter, Barbara Mary Lawrence.

Hearing of Mr. FitzGerald's death, CIA Director Richard Helms said, "In the untimely death of Desmond FitzGerald, the country has lost a professional intelligence officer of high integrity, special abilities and uncommon dedication.

"We in the Agency mourn the passing of a true friend and salute the memory of a gentleman unafraid."

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